

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 20 and 21 are rejected; claims 2 and 4-18 are objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claim 19 is allowed.

Claims 1, 3 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,190,571 to Heusmann et al.

Applicants respond as follows.

Heusmann et al, granted on the U.S. National Stage of PCT/DE03/01646 filed on or after November 29, 2000, where the PCT application was published by WIPO in a language other than English (in this case, German) has no prior art date under § 102(e). However, the published PCT application is available as prior art under § 102(a) as of the November 27, 2003 publication date of the PCT application.

Applicants hereby antedate Heusmann et al by relying on their earlier August 21, 2003 filing date of Provisional Application No. 60/496,664 from which domestic priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119. A verified English translation of Provisional Application No. 60/496,664 is submitted herewith. The present claims find full support at pages 4-10 of the verified English translation of the provisional application.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection and allowance of claims 1-21 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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